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Wendell Willkie: Hoosier Internationalist

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Wendell Willkie: Hoosier Internationalist, edited by James H. Madison. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1992. xi, 184 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$19.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY EDWARD L. SCHAPSMEIER, ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

This book was published to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Wendell Willkie (1892–1944). In so doing it honors a presidential candidate who should not be forgotten while placing him in historical perspective. It is divided into two parts, "Indiana and America" and "The World." Within these divisions are seven scholarly articles (five by American and two by foreign historians).

Willkie's years in Indiana are covered by George T. Blakey (Indiana University) in "Willkie as a Hoosier." Mark H. Leff (University of Illinois) discusses Willkie the utility magnate as politician in "Strange Bedfellows." Ross Gregory (Western Michigan University) focuses on Willkie's remarkable success as a dark-horse candidate in "Seeking the Presidency." Most interesting is Howard Sitkoff's (University of New Hampshire) "Willkie as Liberal." Sitkoff reveals Willkie's remarkable championing of civil rights in a era when even Franklin D. Roosevelt remained cowardly quiet so as not to arouse the ire of racist southern Democrats.

Howard Jones (University of Alabama) analyzes and interprets Willkie's famous book, *One World* (1943), from an American perspective while André Kaspi (the Sorbonne) examines it from the French viewpoint. Alexander S. Manykin (Moscow State University) views Willkie from the vantage point of a Russian historian in "Modernizing the Republican Foreign Policy Agenda."

In reading these essays one is struck with the strange similarities between Indiana's Wendell Willkie and Iowa's Henry A. Wallace. Both were internationalists when the Midwest was the heartland of isolationism. Both were unabashed idealists—each being influenced by Woodrow Wilson's vision of a new world order. Each changed political affiliations, Wallace from Republican to Democrat and Willkie vice versa. Both felt the impact and were victims of Franklin D. Roosevelt's intrigue, and both were unsuccessful presidential candidates whose political careers ended abruptly (Willkie's in 1944 and Wallace's in 1948).

The Willkie that emerges from these well-written essays is both simple and complex. Willkie, the amateur politician, was a businessman who spoke out openly on everything. He was a bold defender of free enterprise, yet espoused a liberalism that chal-

lenged FDR's New Deal. While an inveterate opponent of isolationism, his idealistic internationalism was articulated in vague and simplistic terms. He neither anticipated the advent of the Cold War nor fully understood the interventionist repercussions of his avowed globalism. To his credit Willkie did help reorient the GOP, making it easier for Dwight Eisenhower to defeat Robert Taft for the 1952 Republican presidential nomination. Willkie is truly to be commended for his courageous stand on civil rights (as should Henry A. Wallace) at a time in the 1940s when most white politicians ignominiously avoided the issue.

These original essays are incisive and provide a good synthesis. They are illuminating, adding to our understanding of how certain figures influence the course of American history. Willkie's utopian dream of one world may never come true, but his efforts to promote international cooperation have borne fruit. That was his most notable legacy.

Agricultural Technology in the Twentieth Century, by R. Douglas Hurt. Manhattan, KS: Sunflower University Press, 1991. 106 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$15.00 paper.

REVIEWED BY WAYNE RASMUSSEN, AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The chapters making up this book, with an epilogue added, were first published as an issue of the *Journal of the West*. However, the issue is well worth publication as a separate volume. The author approaches his subject with six topical chapters: the tractor, cotton pickers and strippers, combine harvesters, irrigation in the West, mechanizing the sugar beet harvest, and tomato harvesters. An introduction provides a summary of the overall mechanization of agriculture. The epilogue notes some of the results of this mechanization.

The chapter on tractors points out that by the early 1900s farmers needed a more consistent power source than horses and mules as well as a more suitable and economical source of draft power than the steam engines that had come into use during the last quarter of the century. Hurt traces the development of the internal combustion tractor as it met this need. The first successful one was built by John Froelich of Iowa. However, much additional work was needed before Hart-Parr and other companies began producing tractors in large quantities about 1910. It was not until after World War I that the Fordson and Farmall tractors, small and maneuverable enough to be used with row crops, were widely

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